

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE PCT NATIONAL STAGE APPLICATION OF
TONY WHITTAKER ET AL.

Group Art Unit: 1797

Examiner: Hruskoci, Peter A.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP 05/002079

FILED: February 28, 2005

FOR: DEWATERING PROCESS

U.S. APPLICATION NO: 10/591,878

35 USC 371 DATE: September 6, 2006

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION UNDER 1.132

I, Tony Whittaker, a citizen of the United Kingdom and a resident of Bradford, West Yorkshire, England, hereby declare:

That I was awarded the Higher National Diploma in Chemistry by Sheffield City Polytechnic, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England, in 1978.

That I have been engaged in the research, development and application of water soluble flocculants in the area of solid-liquid separation for Ciba Specialty Chemicals Water Treatment Ltd. since 1979 ;

That I am the inventor of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/591,878.

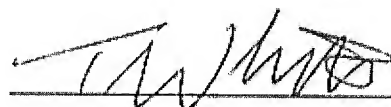
In regard to the examples presented in Table 1 on page 15 of the present application 10/591,878, Data sets 3 and 4 represent substantially dry particle addition of the second flocculant to the suspension.

It is well known within the industry and to those skilled in the art that the aqueous dissolution of dry polymer particles is a relatively slow process (compared to the dissolution rate of common salt electrolytes for example) involving hydration at the particle surface and the gradual disentanglement and dispersion of high mol wt polymer chains into the bulk solution.

Evidence that the polymer particles have had insufficient time to dissolve is clearly demonstrated in the example in Table 1. If the dry polymer particles of data set 3 had quickly dissolved then dry polymer particles would not be present in the thickened suspension and the results of data set 3 would have been comparable to the inferior results of data set 1, where polymer B was fully dissolved at the start. The presence of dry polymer particles in the thickened suspension of data set 3 is further supported by the comparable results obtained in data set 4, wherein the dry polymer particles are only added into the suspension on completion of the thickening stage.

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Signed on this day of 8th October, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Whittaker', written over a horizontal line.

Tony Whittaker